

A true

NARRATIVE

Of the Proceedings at the

Sessions-house

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY,

At a Sessions of Peace there held ;

Which began on *Wednesday* the 11th of this Instant *October*, and ended on *Fryday* the 13th, 1676.

Setting forth the several

Facts, Tryals, and Condemnation
Of Sixteen persons sentenced to Die.

Amongst whom was one for killing a man near
Islington almost two years ago.

With an Account how many are Burn'd in the Hand
and to be Whipt.

With Allowance.

L O N D O N : Printed for D. M. 1676.



The Narrative of the Sessions.

THe present Sessions was so unhappily fruitful in discoveries of variety of Villainy, that the copiousness of the matter may justly ease us of a tedious Preamble, that common lumber of a Pamphlet, and oblige us, unless we had more room than a single sheet, forthwith to fall to the Relation of particulars.

A young fellow was indicted, for that he with two others, not yet known or taken, came into a shop in *Cheapside* and stole two silver Watches and a Watch-case to the value of Ten pound. The Master of the shop was a Watchmaker, but his wife on one side of it kept the trade of a Millinerss: He being abroad, and none but she in the whole shop, the Prisoner and another came in pretending to buy Gloves, and holding the Gentlewoman in discourse, and crowding up to the wall, on a sudden a Boy in the street (supposed to be one of their Comroques, and to be done by Confederacy) snatches two Watches off from the Grate, and a Case, and run away: he that was with the Prisoner pretended to strike at him, and run after him so far, that he never came back; and the Prisoner would have been going too, but was seiz'd. However, since there was no proof of the

the boy that stole the Watch being of his Company, he was brought in not guilty.

One indicted for breaking open a house the 22th of *September*, in the day time. He got into a Tavern in *Cornhil*, and went into the upper Rooms, where he broke open a door and stole a Perriwig, Stockings, and several other things; but being afraid of a discovery as he came down, endeavour'd to escape at the top of the house; but being seen by a Neighbour on the Leads, and examined, he first said he was surveying the house, afterwards that he had a Master below a drinking; but in short, was apprehended, committed, and now found guilty, having, as was testified in the Court, been burn'd in the hand before.

Two old Offenders having two Indictments against them both for felonious taking the Goods of two Gentlemen, pleaded guilty to those and all others within the benefit of Clergy, a knack of Law which the Newgate-students are generally well vers'd in, though here 'tis like to do them but small kindness: for though the respective Indictments to which they pleaded guilty, were but for Felony, as being laid in *London*, where the Goods (being Plate and Linnen, to a very great value) were taken with them, yet upon Examination of Evidence both Facts appeared to be Burglaries in other Counties, viz. one in *Wiltshire*, and the other in *Barkshire*; and in such a Case the advantage of Clergy is expressly excluded by the Statute: So that they are both like to suffer deservedly for their wicked practises, which was to take their progress to remote parts in the

A 2

Country,

Country, and take the advantage of breaking open the houses of persons of Quality, where they might have the most considerable Booty, being well provided with all sorts of Batteries, Mills, and other Hellish Engines for effecting the same.

A Man was tryed on an Indictment for Murther, for killing one *William Parker* on the 8th day of *February* last was Twelvemonth, near *Islington*: the Case was thus; The said *Parker* and another, now an Evidence, were at work a ditching; the Prisoner and his Brother (not yet taken) came that way, but out of any common Path, with each of them a very great Stake in his hand, which seemed lately to be pluckt out of some Fence. *Parker* (knowing them) told them, they did not do well to spoil Peoples Pastures and Fences, &c. Whereupon they swore they would beat out his Brains, and assaulted the Ditchers, who defended themselves as well as they could a while; and then coming to a Parley, the Prisoner and his Brother went away above threescore yards, and then on a suddain returned, swearing they would kill the old Rogue (meaning the said *Will. Parker*) and then the Prisoner, with the Club or Stake he had in his hand, gave the said *Parker* a mortal bruise on the right side of the Head, so that he lay at present for dead, but with Spirits was brought to life again; but next Morning about four a Clock died. Whilst the Evidence was getting Strong waters to revive his Friend and call for help, the Criminals fled, nor could be heard of for above this year and an half upon the *Hue and Cry*, till lately the Prisoner was
taken

taken near *Croyden* in *Surrey*. Though on the Evidence it seemed to be a Murther, yet on consideration of the whole matter, the Jury brought it in only Manſlaughter, for reaſons beſt known to themſelves; but craving the benefit of his Clergy he was not able to read, and ſo received ſentence of Death.

Two fellows were found guilty of breaking open a houſe at *Edmonton* in the day-time on the 30th of *Auguſt* laſt, and felonious taking of ſix pair of Sheets, a Farrindon-gown, and other Linnen and Apparel, nobody being in the ſame houſe: but the bar of the window being broke, and the Thieves ſeen with bundles coming from the houſe, they were purſued ſo cloſely that they dropt their Pillage into a Garden and hid themſelves, one in a Ditch of water, the other in Buſhes, but were ſoon taken, and ſome odde things, as a Razor, &c. taken about one of them, but they were ſeen to drop the reſt that were left in the Garden, and therefore there was no need of further proof.

The next Caſe of two Criminals had more of Intricacy in it: They broke open an uninhabited houſe at *Hackney*, and took thence a Copper valued at Four pound; but not being able the ſame night to carry it off, hid it three or four fields diſtant, where it was accidentally found by honeſt Neighbours, and a VVatch planted next night to ſee who would fetch it away, who appeared to be the Priſoners now at the Bar; and after they had carried it ſome few rods, the Ambuſcade unwilling they ſhould weary themſelves too much, came in to prevent their further toil,
and

and lodged them safe next day in Newgate. It was agreed that the first taking the Copper, being fixed by Morter, &c. to the Freehold, was onely a Trespass, and no Felony; but it was resolved, that the second remove after it was once separated, was Felony, the property not being altered; and thereupon they were found guilty by the Jury. These two had long made a Trade of Stealing, and formerly received mercy, but would take no warning.

There was a woman indicted for having two Husbands, and a man for as many VVives: she was prosecuted by her latter (supposed) Husband, he by his former Wife; but for want of direct and sufficient proof, neither were found guilty. The man seemed very passionately desirous, that Squire *Katch* might sue out a Divorce between him and his Lady; and yet it is certain (unless he publickly belyed himself in Court) he has got something by her since their Marriage.

The next was a little confident ungrateful Slut, taken up in the streets by an honest laborious Market-woman, who first employed her, and afterwards admitted her to lie with her: she took an advantage one morning when her kinde Dame was gone out early, leaving her in bed, to rob the poor woman of almost all the Clothes she had, sending them away by some Confederates, and devoutly forswearing her own knowing any thing of the matter; but finding a Warrant like to come, fled, and was found with an Ends of Gold and Silver woman, to whom she had pawn'd part of the things: she was Convicted only to the value of ten Pence; and consequently instead of riding in a Cart, shall only have the honour to follow it, under the correction of a gentle Lash.

Another like Example of base Ingratitude from *Shadwel*. A man in kindness gives a young Fellow his Lodging; who in
re-

requital gets up early, and runs away with a small Trunk, and 9 l. 15 s. in Money, besides Rings and other things in it, to his almost utter undoing, having been two years searching for the Thief; for so I may lawfully call him, standing convicted by the Verdict of Twelve men, being lately arrived from a Voyage to Sea.

One was indicted for stealing a dunnish Gelding, a brown Nagg, and one black Mare. The Evidence was such that he could hardly deny it, onely endeavoured to evade it by al- leading that he had no felonious intent. Being convicted, he beg'd hard for Transportation, but received Sentence with the rest to die.

A Woman that had several times troubled the Court at former Sessions, was now brought in again; the Crime she was charged with being thus: She had for some time lodged at a house in *St. Sepulchres* Parish, and on the 22th of *February* last taking an opportunity, whilst her Landlord and his Wife were gone forth to a Funeral, cut away the posts of the door where they used to lie, and with a piece of Iron put back the Spring- lock, and stole away a silver Cup to the value of 5 l. a Tankard worth 9 l. and several other Goods, wearing Apparel, &c. There came in Evidence against her, that they saw a light in the Chamber where the Robbery was committed at the same time, and knock'd at the door, but no body would answer; and that immediately after she was seen to come out of the house with a bundle or heap in her Apron, &c. After Con- viction she pleaded her Belly, but a Jury of Matrons gave in their Verdict that she was not with Childe.

Two other notorious Female Offenders received Sentence for stealing a considerable parcel of Linnen and other things: One of them, it was said, had formerly been transported, which she begg'd for heartily now again, but notwithstanding their prayers, both were tied up.

The rest of the men whose Crimes are not parti- cularized, were condemned for Burglaries, wherein there was nothing extraordinary, save the prodigi- ous

suffered, seem'd to live as beasts of Prey upon the destruction of their peaceable and industrious Fellow-subjects.

There were in all Sixteen persons (Thirteen men and Three women) that received Sentence of death, Thirteen burn'd in the hand, and Five women ordered to be Whipt at the Carts tail, or (as themselves phrase it) *To shove the Flogging Tumbler.*

P I N I S.